

the battlefield and an expert in the field of intelligence for over 30 years. Our nation is indebted to leaders like Colonel Ives, who deserve our respect for their unending dedication in providing security for Americans both at home and abroad. Of course, no soldier can be successful without a supportive and understanding family at home. Their service and sacrifice in allowing Colonel Ives to do his work deserves our respect and appreciation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Ives for his decades of tireless service towards the protection of our nation. We wish him and his family well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
RYAN S. MCCABE, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Corporal Ryan S. McCabe of the United States Marine Corps for his extraordinary courage and heroism while serving our nation in Afghanistan. On March, 10, 2005, Lance Corporal McCabe was presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Lance Corporal McCabe put himself at grave personal risk to protect the lives of the Marines in his unit. He used a bayonet to navigate his unit through a minefield in Afghanistan. Due to his bravery, Lance Corporal McCabe's patrol leader—who had been wounded by a detonated landmine—received the urgent medical care he needed to survive and recover.

Lance Corporal McCabe has brought great pride to his parents, Stephen and Kathleen, and his hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts. I would like to congratulate Lance Corporal McCabe, and enter into the record a news article titled "V" for valor by reporter Robert Mills which ran in the May 30, 2005 edition of The Lowell Sun.

His patrol leader had already been wounded by a landmine explosion when Lance Cpl. Ryan McCabe, of Lowell, was handed a bayonet and told by his sergeant to start digging his way through the minefield.

McCabe, 22, took his orders without hesitation.

Just minutes before, McCabe and the rest of the six-man patrol he was part of on that mid-August day had started up a hill where they saw a bunker. The patrol leader took the lead, walking up a trail even though the troops saw landmines on the hillside.

Nevertheless, the patrol leader soon detonated an anti-personnel mine, which blew off part of his leg.

The rest of the patrol retreated from the immediate area to avoid setting off any other mines, and began to organize a rescue mission.

That's when McCabe received his orders.

McCabe, who comes from a long line of veterans and Lowell firefighters, got on his hands and knees, and began probing through the minefield, plunging the bayonet into the dirt, searching for mines.

"You feel through the dirt with the bayonet at an angle so if you find a mine you hit it on the side, which won't set it off," he said.

The anti-personnel mines are triggered when they are stepped on, so only direct pressure on top of the mines will cause an explosion.

McCabe was too excited at the time to remember about how far he had to crawl through the minefield, but he eventually got to the lieutenant and secured the area around him which allowed the rest of the patrol, and the medic that was traveling with it, to rescue and treat the group's leader.

In recognition of his efforts, McCabe was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, with a combat V—for valor—earlier this month.

Despite his heroism in Afghanistan, which he returned from in December, McCabe and his unit, Lima Company of the Third Battalion Sixth Marines, will now ship out for duty in Iraq starting in August or September.

He will leave for urban and desert warfare training in California next week, before spending an estimated six to nine months in Iraq.

He said having another deployment so soon is "stressful," but nothing he can't handle.

"It's stressful, but once you get over there it's not too bad," he said. "The first few months are depressing, but you get used to it real quick."

McCabe, who lived in Lowell all his life before joining the Marine Corps, ran cross-country and track while he was a student at Lowell High School.

When his duty with the Marine Corps is finished in about two years, he hopes to return to Lowell to become a firefighter, just as his father, two uncles and grandfather were before him.

McCabe's father, Steve McCabe, of Lowell, is a lieutenant with the Lowell Fire Department's Ladder 4. McCabe's uncle, Patrick McCabe, is one of the department's eight deputy chiefs. His uncle, Bob McCabe, is also a Lowell firefighter, as was his grandfather, Patrick McCabe, who was a deputy chief when he retired from the department in 1984.

He followed in his father's footsteps when he joined the Marines in 2001. His father had served from 1974 to 1976, just missing being sent to Vietnam.

Speaking from his Lowell home last week, Steve McCabe said he is proud of his son, though he naturally worries about him being in such dangerous situations.

"Like any parent that has a son or daughter serving I'm extremely proud, but at the same time I have mixed emotions because like any parent I worry," Steve McCabe said. "I'm nervous about him going to Iraq."

Steve McCabe said that just as he did when his son was in Afghanistan, he will be following closely any reports he can find while his son is in Iraq.

Though his rescue mission in Afghanistan was perilous, McCabe said he didn't realize what he had done until after the lieutenant was saved.

"At the time, the adrenaline was going so much I just wasn't thinking of what was going on," he said from Fort Lejeune, in North Carolina, last week. "It happened so quickly I didn't have time to get nervous."

"Afterward, I realized 'wow, what did I just do?'" McCabe said.

Mr. Speaker, we're blessed to have brave men and women like Lance Corporal Class

Ryan S. McCabe serving our nation. We should never forget the risks they take to preserve our liberty.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a long time friend, Mr. George Rodriguez. "Georgie", as he is affectionately known in my community, will be honored in the Bronx, New York tonight for his outstanding work and unyielding service to the people of the Bronx, NY.

Since he arrived in New York over forty years ago, George has devoted most of his time to fighting the good fight. Serving as an advocate for the disadvantaged, George has helped to curtail the debilitating effects of racism, poverty and disease throughout the Bronx community.

Among George's long list of accomplishments are several projects which have helped to put roofs over the heads of our most vulnerable citizens. He has served as Chairman of the NYC Model Cities Program (a program that provides low income residents and senior citizens with housing), and helped to establish Mins Plaza Housing, OVB Garden Apartments and Borinquen Court housing for seniors. In addition, George has assisted in providing his neighbors with much needed quality healthcare. He was instrumental in the establishment of the New Lincoln Hospital, and the Segunda Ruix Belvis Neighborhood Health Center.

Mr. Speaker, men like George are a rare breed. It is not everyday that you find individuals who are willing to devote their entire lives to uplifting others. His selfless acts of kindness have helped countless Bronxites live better lives. Furthermore, his actions serve as a testimony to the great influence an individual can have when he is determined to bring about change.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly appreciative of the work George has done for residents of the congressional district. As a result of his strong leadership and vision, the Bronx is a better place and as result of his enduring friendship I am a better leader. For his outstanding service to the people of my community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. George Rodriguez.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL
SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Title II of H.R. 458. This provision protects our service men and women from the predatory practices of high cost military lenders. Companies such as Pioneer Financial have demonstrated the need

for increased lending restrictions due to their avaricious behavior.

Pioneer Financial has realized that it can prey on military customers by charging unjustifiable rates, high fees and selling them expensive and often unnecessary credit insurance, and then refinancing the loan within a year to generate more fees. Some military customers have found alternatives to Pioneer's costly loan products, and because of this Pioneer has fought back and launched a targeted campaign to pass legislation that cripples its payday lender competitors and stops them from being able to sell to our military personnel.

Mr. Speaker, no one deserves to be taken advantage of, and it is despicable that someone would specifically target the very people that are protecting the freedoms that allow us to participate in commerce at all. That is exactly why I support this bill.

H.R. 458 protects and balances military borrowers' responsibilities and rights. It is important to note that the bill applies not only to payday advance lenders, but also to other higher-cost creditors like Pioneer, small loan companies, title lenders and finance companies.

This legislation also ensures that military borrowers are given additional warnings and special protections if their lender targets military personnel and charges higher rates. In particular, borrowers are protected from garnishment and other collection activities while on active military duty. Further, H.R. 458 takes care to maintain access to many types of credit. By doing so, this bill provides both choice and protection for our service members.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the members of the Financial Services Committee for addressing these abusive lending practices, and for protecting those who risk their lives to protect us every day.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL FREMONT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-second anniversary of the Fremont Festival of the Arts, sponsored by the Fremont, California Chamber of Commerce. Annual contributions from the Festival provide over \$400,000 to non-profit agencies in the Fremont community.

The Festival is expected to attract over 45,000 individuals and will feature more than 800 artists, 40 culinary selections and 30 musical groups. This effort is made possible through the generous help of some 3,000 volunteers who give willingly of their time to insure the success of the Festival.

The spirit of community service continues to thrive in Fremont as exhibited by the Fremont Festival of the Arts. I am confident this year's Festival will be a success, and through its contributions to non-profits, will make a difference in the lives of all who live in our community.

I commend the efforts of David M. O'Hara, Festival Chairman, and Cindy Bonair, Cham-

ber CEO and Festival Director, for their generous and untiring efforts to make the Fremont Festival of the Arts a model event.

TRIBUTE TO MISS MARTHA HARRIS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miss Martha Harris, from Altoona, Pennsylvania, as one of twenty national winners in a new award program called The Alexander Hamilton Citizenship Achievement Award. The award is sponsored by a new 501(c)3 non-profit organization, The Alexander Hamilton Friends Association, AHFA, of Seattle, Washington. Fourteen states were represented and amongst the twenty winners, Pennsylvania had three, all of whom happened to be from Altoona Area High School. Over 200 candidates were considered for the award and it is a remarkable achievement for these three students and the Altoona Area school district.

The Alexander Hamilton Friends Association is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington. The AHFA's goal is to preserve Alexander Hamilton's legacy by recognizing and honoring young people who share Hamilton's strong sense of integrity, achievement, pragmatism, and service. For a student to win the award the student needs to exhibit a high degree of personal integrity and receive an outstanding rating in two of the five areas, which are: community service, school-related extracurricular activity, entrepreneurial skill, scholastic record, and personal achievement. George Cox, president of AHFA said, "The key question we asked ourselves, was this: If a young Alexander Hamilton were placed in a situation like this student, would he have responded in a similar manner? In the case of our winners, we think the answer is yes."

Miss Martha Harris is a junior at Altoona High school. She is a editor and serves on the staff of the school newspaper, yearbook, a literary magazine. As a copy editor of the yearbook, she supervises more than 25 students. Harris who is totally blind, frequently speaks to parents of blind children and the sighted public concerning the need for Braille texts and blindness awareness. She is active in Young Life and helps read scriptures for services at her church.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to congratulate Miss Martha Harris on her outstanding achievements in community service and we are proud to have her as one of our constituents.

HONORING TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY IN RED BANK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Two River Theater Company on the

opening of a new, state of the art, performance center in Red Bank, New Jersey. The Two River Theater Company is in Monmouth County, New Jersey's leading professional theater.

Since the company first opened its curtains in 1994, the Two River Theater Company has used many venues for their productions. Starting at Monmouth College and traveling around Monmouth County, the Two River Theater Company has been innovative and resourceful in creating productions in borrowed spaces. With the opening of their new home, the Two River Theater Company will provide an excellent addition to the artistic and cultural makeup of Red Bank, Monmouth County and all of central New Jersey.

As a supporter of the arts, I cannot stress enough the importance of culture in our lives. The arts play a crucial role in our society, enhancing our creativity; promoting critical aspects of education; and providing Americans with the opportunity to view works of beauty and expression. I commend the Two River Theater Company for bridging together local groups and communities through their educational and cultural programming and providing individuals with access to many different forms of art.

The Two River Theater Company decision to locate their new theater on Red Bank's west side, easily accessible by car and train, is an example of the desire to contribute to the local community. The new space is comprised of a main theater, named for the cofounders of the Two River Theater Company, that will provide an intimate atmosphere for both the actors and audiences. A small box theater will provide a different type of venue for performances as well rehearsal space for productions on the main stage. The complex also holds costume and craft shops, lighting and sound shops and dressing rooms.

For more than ten years, the individuals involved with the Two River Theater Company have shared their love for the theater, arts and music with local schools. From educational programming to reduced admission for school groups to running a yearlong program for 25 exceptional high school juniors to teach them about all aspects of theater, the Two River Theater Company is committed to educating our youth and helping students gain a greater appreciation for the arts.

Kicking off their inaugural season, the Two River Theater Company held a gala fund-raiser and then hosted three free programs for the local communities including a Celebration for Educators on April 26, a Neighborhood Open House & Concert on April 28, and a Family Day on April 30. The theater season kicked off on May 7th with the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "You Can't Take It With You" by George S. Kaufman, which will run in the Robert "Bob" and Joan Rechnitz Theater and "Suicide in B flat" by Sam Shepard, a one act play that includes music, that will be performed in the Marion Huber Theater for a limited number of days in June.

I congratulate the Two River Theater Company for their hard work and dedication to achieving their dream of their own theater. Not only will the new venue provide an excellent place for audiences to enjoy the arts, but it has and will continue to bring cultural and new life to downtown and west side Red Bank. I applaud the achievements of the Two River Theater Company and may they break a leg during their inaugural theater season.